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United States Attorney
District of Kansas

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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KANSAS CITY, KANSAS, MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO DRUG AND GUN CHARGES

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Oscar Maldonado**, 18, Kansas City, Kansas, entered a guilty plea on November 17, 2003, before U.S. District Judge Carlos Murguia to one count of distributing cocaine and one count of possessing a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime.

Melgren stated that Maldonado admitted at his plea that on June 17, 2003, he sold approximately 27 grams (approximately one ounce) of cocaine to a confidential informant in Kansas City, Kansas. Maldonado further admitted that during the sale he possessed a handgun which was concealed in the waistband of his pants. Maldonado admitted that he was carrying the gun to protect himself while he engaged in drug trafficking. Maldonado further admitted that he told the confidential informant that he had two or three kilograms (4.4 to 6.6 pounds) of cocaine to sell and discussed selling a kilogram (2.2 pounds) of cocaine to the confidential informant.

Maldonado faces a maximum of thirty years in federal prison, without parole, for distributing cocaine and a minimum of five years for possessing a gun in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime. Sentencing is set for February 2, 2004, at 10:30 a.m.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the FBI in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Terra Morehead in this prosecution.